

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD  
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USDOE FOR BILLY HILL

E.O.11652:N/A  
TAGS:ECON, EALR, UR  
SUBJECT: SOVIET GAS OUTPUT EXPANDS, AS DOES INSTRUMENT  
MAKING

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. PRAVDA (MARCH 7 REPORTS GAS AND INSTRUMENT-MAKING  
MADE GREAT ACHIEVEMENTS IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY, ACCORDING  
TO PRELIMINARY DATA.

2. ARTICLE QUOTES GAS MINISTER ORUDZHEV AS SAYING THAT MORE  
THAN 600 MILLION CUBIC METERS OF GAS ABOVE PLAN HAD BEEN  
DELIVERED IN THE TWO MONTHS, EXCEEDING 1977 OUTPUT IN  
THE COMPARABLE PERIOD BY MORE THAN 4,000 MILLION CUBIC  
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METERS. EIGHTY PERCENT OF THE GROWTH CAME FROM INCREASED  
LABOR PRODUCTIVITY. ORENBURG, TURKMENIA AND THE UKRAINE  
MET TARGET; HOWEVER, ABOUT 90 PERCENT OF THE NATION-WIDE  
INCREASE CAME FROM RESOURCE-RICH TYUMEN OBLAST.

3. AMONG THE PROJECTS WHICH ORUDZHEV SAID IT IS ESSENTIAL  
TO SPEED UP WERE THE GAS FIELDS AT URENGOY AND VYNGAPUR,

THE URENGOY-CHELYABINSK AND ORENBURG-WESTERN BORDER PIPELINES, THE COMPRESSOR STATIONS AND LINE SECTION SYSTEMS OF THE URENGOY-WESTERN BORDER PIPELINE, AND THE THIRD SECTION OF THE ORENBURG GAS COMPLEX. (SOVIET TV RECENTLY DID A STORY ON URENGOY WHICH SOUGHT TO LEAVE IMPRESSION OF RAPID PROGRESS IN CONSTRUCTION.)

4. ACCORDING TO K. ARUTYUNOV, DEPUTY MINISTER OF INSTRUMENT MAKING, AUTOMATION EQUIPMENT AND CONTROL SYSTEMS, THE INSTRUMENT-MAKING INDUSTRY PRODUCED 10 PERCENT MORE ITEMS THAN IN THE COMPARABLE PERIOD OF LAST YEAR. "HIGH QUALITY" OUTPUT ALREADY STANDS AT 17.6 PERCENT AND IS TARGETED TO REACH 23 PERCENT BY CONSTITUTION DAY (OCTOBER 7). HOWEVER, THERE ARE ENTERPRISES WHICH ARE NOT FULFILLING PLAN, AND "RHYTHMICAL" WORK EACH MONTH IS NEEDED.

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5. COMMENT: IF THE USUAL SCHEDULE HOLDS, FULL FEBRUARY STATISTICS SHOULD BE OUT IN ANOTHER WEEK OR SO. PUBLICATION OF THE "HIGH" RESULTS OF THESE TWO INDUSTRIES MAY POSSIBLY REFLECT A DESIRE TO PUT OUT SOME GOOD NEWS ABOUT THE ECONOMY FOLLOWING THE REPORTS IN DECEMBER AND JANUARY OF LACKLUSTRE PERFORMANCE IN MANY SECTORS LAST YEAR  
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AND LOWERED GOALS FOR THIS YEAR.

6. A COMPARISON OF THE GAS-OUTPUT FIGURES WITH LAST YEAR'S INDICATES THAT FEBRUARY MAY NOT HAVE MAINTAINED THE 7.7 PERCENT GROWTH RATE SET IN JANUARY, AND THE DROP IN PRODUCTION BETWEEN THE TWO MONTHS MAY BE SOMEWHAT GREATER THIS YEAR THAN LAST. BUT IT IS TOO EARLY IN THE YEAR TO ATTACH MUCH SIGNIFICANCE TO THAT. THE FACT THAT TYUMEN CONTINUES TO PROVIDE SUCH A HUGE PROPORTION OF GROWTH COINCIDES WITH PLAN AND ILLUSTRATES ITS INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT ROLE AS OLDER GAS PRODUCING AREAS GROW MORE SLOWLY, STAGNATE OR EVEN DECLINE. TOON

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## Message Attributes

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